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Title: Regarding need to pass the Women"s Reservation Bill.

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (JALPAIGURI): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me the privilege to raise an important matter in this august House.

Representation for women through reservation in various political forums has been identified as one of the important means of achieving gender equality throughout our country. It has been an issue that had seized women activists not just today but even in the pre-Independence era. The issue of separate representation was first voiced when the idea of provincial autonomy was mooted during the days of the British Raj. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not give a speech here. Just mention that you want the Bill to be taken up early.

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN : I am coming to the point regarding the Women's Reservation Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: Please come to the point.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: If you are disturbing your own colleague, I cannot help you.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN : The highest representation of women is in Scandinavian countries. Throughout the world, women's representation in Parliament is 14 per cent whereas in India it is only around eight per cent.

I, on behalf of my party, urge upon the Government, through you, to place the long awaited Women's Reservation Bill in its present form. After placement, if necessary, let it be put to vote but under any circumstances further dilly-dallying would create a deep-rooted misunderstanding among women.

Thank you. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please wait.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The names of Shrimati Jyotirmoyee Sikdar, Prof. Basudeb Barman, Shrimati Satheedevi, Shri Basu Deb Acharia, Shrimati C.S. Sujatha, and Shri T.K. Hamza would be recorded as having associated.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Sir, we want a response from the Government. The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is here. We would like to know whether the Government would bring the Bill to provide for 33 per cent reservation for women before the House. He should inform the House. ...(*Interruptions*) It has been pending for the last ten years. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing would go on record.

*(Interruptions)* â€¦*

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Shri Lakshman Seth. If you do not want to hear him, I would adjourn the House.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Let us see if the hon. Minister wants to respond. If he wants to respond, I would not stop him.

...(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): Sir, I would bring this to the attention of the hon. Minister concerned. I would convey the feelings of the hon. Members.

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*Not Recorded.